

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 168**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Galgiani**

May 24, 2010

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 168—Relative to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 168, as introduced, Galgiani. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease awareness.

This measure would encourage the State Department of Health Care Services to partner with private entities to improve education regarding chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

This measure would also designate November 2010, as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in California. This measure would also encourage public officials and the citizens of California to increase awareness of the symptoms of, and the methods of preventing, COPD.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD),  
2 also known as chronic bronchitis and emphysema, is the fourth  
3 leading cause of death in the United States and is the only one of  
4 the top five causes of death whose prevalence and death rate is  
5 rising; and

6 WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that  
7 impacts an estimated 24 million Americans each year,  
8 approximately five million of whom are residents of California,

1 and an estimated 1.6 million of whom suffer directly from the  
2 disease; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2004, the national annual cost for COPD was  
4 estimated to be \$37 billion and in that same year, COPD caused  
5 approximately 121,000 deaths nationwide; and

6 WHEREAS, Many patients suffering with COPD are not  
7 diagnosed until they have reached an advanced stage of COPD,  
8 which often includes a disabling degree of lung dysfunction; and

9 WHEREAS, A diagnostic test for COPD, known as spirometry,  
10 is available for office use, allowing early diagnosis of COPD; and

11 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and management of COPD can  
12 effectively reduce the overall financial burden of this illness on  
13 publicly funded health care programs, including Medi-Cal; and

14 WHEREAS, Achieving early diagnosis and proper management  
15 of COPD among California's diverse populations, within the  
16 Medi-Cal program as well as other publicly funded health care  
17 programs, requires overcoming cultural, language, and literacy  
18 challenges; and

19 WHEREAS, Proper management of COPD can lead to an  
20 improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for patients who  
21 receive publicly funded benefits; and

22 WHEREAS, The "Healthy People 2010" project of the Centers  
23 for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of  
24 Health concludes that, while primary care physicians are in a key  
25 position to provide optimal care to patients with COPD and to  
26 provide counseling during clinical or health center visits, primary  
27 care physicians need to be trained in the latest methods for  
28 diagnosing and treating the disease; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
30 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages the State  
31 Department of Health Care Services to, whenever possible, partner  
32 with private entities to improve education regarding COPD; and  
33 be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Legislature designates November 2010, as  
35 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month in  
36 California. The Legislature encourages public officials and the  
37 citizens of California to increase awareness about the symptoms  
38 of, and the methods of preventing, COPD; and be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2     of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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